

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5 1. In a computer network, a method of implementing a virtual layer around a software application instance in communication with an operating system, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) registering an application by associating a unique application identifier to the application, said association and passing said association to a software module that processes transactions between the application and the operating system;

10 (b) allocating a resource identifier when an application requests access to a system resource, said resource identifier returned from the operating system in response to said request; and

(c) translating a resource identifier from a system resource identifier to a virtual resource identifier when the resource identifier is passed from the operating system to the application. ))

15 2. In a computer network, a method of implementing a virtual layer around a software application instance in communication with an operating system, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) registering an application by associating a unique application identifier to the application, said association and passing said association to a software module that processes transactions between the application and the operating system;

20 (b) allocating a resource identifier when an application requests access to a system resource, said resource identifier returned from the operating system in response to said request; and

(c) translating a resource identifier from a virtual resource identifier to a system resource identifier when the resource identifier is passed from the application to the operating system.